

# Southeast News

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UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

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## Appeal for Religious Overseas Aid

Signaling an American interfaith commitment to help the world's needy, the three major relief and rehabilitation agencies supported by the Catholic, Protestant, and Jewish communities in the United States will conduct their 26th annual Religious Overseas Aid Appeal from February 20 through April 30.

The tri-faith appeal is the once-a-year campaign conducted jointly by the Catholic Relief Services, the Protestant "One Great Hour of Sharing" and the United Jewish Appeal to raise needed funds to carry out their global humanitarian programs.

A number of leading American actors will help carry this appeal's message to the American public through public service media announcements. Among the participating: Martin Balsam, Colleen Dewhurst, Arlene Francis, James Earl Jones and Betsy Palmer.

On nearly every continent, the agencies supported by the three faiths provide a full program of social services which range from rescue support in disaster areas to community development projects designed to help people help themselves achieve a better quality of life.

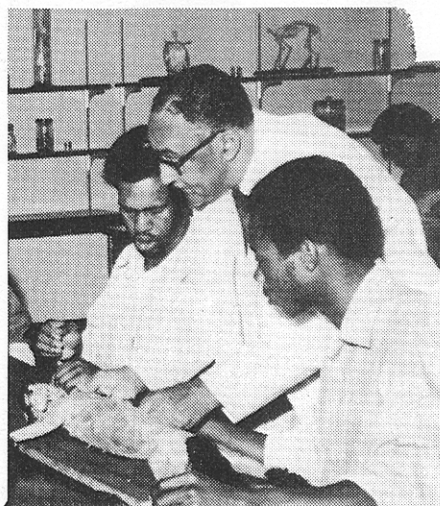
The interfaith appeal will be headed by the leaders of the three social service agencies.

## Pilgrim Church Celebrates

Pilgrim Congregational Church UCC was founded when Birmingham was only 32 years old. From its original home on 8th Avenue South, it moved to its present location in 1959. The present building, designed by Fritz Woehle, was innovative for its time and won national attention.

The Church's 75th Anniversary observance began on the weekend of March 4-6 with a great service of celebration and

[Continued on Page 2]



## WHAT DOES AMA STAND FOR?

Perhaps you've been confused from time to time by references made in publications of the United Church of Christ to certain colleges in the South, as having been founded by the "AMA." "What's the AMA," you may have asked, "got to do with the UCC?"

Somewhat like the tire company which advertises that it is the "other" company — the one that doesn't own a blimp, the United Church of Christ reminds you that the AMA which it talks about isn't an association to which many American doctors belong! Our AMA stands for the American Missionary Association, an agency that has a long and significant heritage of its own and that is currently related to the United Church through our Board for Homeland Ministries.

Most recently, you may have heard about the six colleges and universities which were founded by the AMA — our AMA — shortly after the end of the Civil War. Begun as part of a massive educational program that was designed to provide schooling for newly freed slaves, these six institutions are still committed to the cause of education for black Americans. These AMA-founded colleges and universities have been major

[Continued on Page 6]

## OGHS: What One Church Did

Over \$4,000? That's right. Belvidere United Church, Belvidere, Tennessee, a church of some 120 members collected over \$4,000 for this year's One Great Hour of Sharing all-church offering. Pastor Collie Seymour reports that on March 5 an OGHS offering of \$3,945.28 was received. An additional \$85.00 was given on March 12 to bring the grand total to: \$4,030.28!

## The Local Church in God's Mission

Two new books published by Friendship Press will help the members of your congregation to better understand the role of the local church in God's mission. Joseph H. Yeakel, a Methodist bishop in Syracuse, N.Y., notes that "Whatever form the local church might take, it will find that God's mission is not an option. Mission — reaching out to people in need — is the primary agenda."

The first of these books, STEEPLE PEOPLE AND THE WORLD, PLANNING FOR MISSION THROUGH THE CHURCH, is by Dr. John Killinger, professor of Preaching, Worship, and Literature at Vanderbilt Divinity School. Dr. Killinger helps groups turn to the Bible for guidance, examine contemporary experience to define the human needs around them, and become alert to significant mission efforts of churches — both in North America and beyond — as models of what can be done. STEEPLE PEOPLE AND THE WORLD is available from your Cokesbury Regional Service Center, Fifth and Grace St., Richmond, Va. 23261. Price: \$2.50.

The second book, GO-GROUPS, GEARING UP FOR REACHING OUT, is by Eleanor McMullen and Jean Sonnonfeld. These two Christian Education specialists have prepared this collection of seven "experience" sessions for teens and adults as a companion to STEEPLE PEOPLE AND THE WORLD. The sessions include simulations, role plays, and evaluations which will help the user to understand mission better in the life of individuals and local churches. GO-GROUPS is available from Cokesbury. Price, \$2.50.



Participants of Belvidere Ground Breaking Service.

## BELVIDERE CHURCH 'ON THE MOVE'

March 12, 1978 was a memorable day for First United Church of Christ in Belvidere, Tenn. and for two reasons. On that day not only did the church break ground for a new parsonage, but they held a Planning Meeting in which goals for future church development were adopted.

At the conclusion of morning worship the congregation marched to the site of the new parsonage — at the rear of the present parsonage — for a Ground Breaking Service, during which a spadeful of earth was turned over not only by the pastor but by the head of each organization in the church.

The new parsonage — consisting of four bedrooms, living room, dining room, kitchen and breakfast area, family room, utility room and a 2-car carport — will have a living area of some 1850 square feet and a total area of 2,400 square feet. Estimated cost is \$30,000 to \$35,000 with some labor being given by members of the congregation. Construction is expected to begin about April 1. The pastor's family will continue to live in the present parsonage until the new one is completed. The existing parsonage will then be removed.

On March 19, the Brotherhood sponsored a "kick-off" breakfast for the new parsonage building fund and \$6,923 was contributed. At Sunday School and morning worship another \$2,702 was given, and that added to \$36.43 on hand made a total in the building fund of \$9,661.

Also of note on March 12 was a Church Planning Meeting. Beginning with proposals developed by the Task Force for Church Planning, the congregation, under the leadership of Mr. and Mrs. George Nixon of Huntsville, AL, met in small groups for discussion purposes. The result

was adoption of goals in the areas of Membership Outreach, Constitutional Revision, Community Outreach and Worship Enrichment. "We believe," says pastor Collie Seymour, "that the goals adopted will lead the Belvidere Church as it broadens its ministry in the community."

## Pilgrim Church...

[Continued from Page 1]

worship. Dr. Gabriel Fackre, Professor of Theology at Andover Newton Theological School in Newton Centre, Massachusetts, preached the Anniversary Sermon. Greetings were delivered by Mr. Daniel Watkins, City Manager of Mountain Brook; Mr. Chriss Doss, Commissioner of Public Works for Jefferson County; and the Rev. William J. Andes, Minister of the Southeast Conference of the United Church of Christ. Letters of greetings from other persons and churches were also part of the service.

Dr. Fackre is an ordained minister of the United Church of Christ, a lecturer of note, and the author of a number of books concerning theology and evangelism. Among his books are "The Rainbow Sign," "Do and Tell: Engagement Evangelism in the 70's," "Liberation in Middle America" and "The Christian Story" (a narrative presentation of basic Christian doctrine) to be published by Eerdmans this spring. He was Evangelism Consultant for the United Church Board for Homeland Ministries from 1972-74.

## Ministers Call for Voluntary Fund for Wilmington 10

On Monday night, January 23, North Carolina Governor Jim Hunt announced through a television newscast that he would reduce the sentences of the Wilmington 10, but would not pardon or commute the sentences to release them from prison.

By his action, Gov. Hunt made eight of the defendants eligible for parole during 1978. Mr. Benjamin Chavis, the UCC employee involved, will not be eligible for parole until 1980. One defendant, the white woman in the group, already is out on parole.

On Tuesday, January 31, a group of approximately 58 UCC ministers from the area met at the Beverly Hills UCC, Burlington, N.C. Following free and open discussion they adopted a statement that was released to the press.

The ministers stated, "We came to the meeting with a common concern for the agony, distress and division widespread among our churches, and among ourselves, regarding the Wilmington 10, the publicity our churches are getting, the use of funds and the unrest experienced by our pastors and parish members."

The group adopted the following three recommendations:

(1) That the Board of Directors of the Southern Conference confirm the role of the Conference Minister as official spokesperson of the United Church of Christ within the bounds of the Southern Conference on news releases and other public communications.

(2) That the Executive Council of the United Church of Christ work closely with other denominations in the establishment of a Voluntary Ecumenical Defense Fund for the Wilmington 10 and pursue this with deliberate speed, and

(3) That the Voluntary Ecumenical Wilmington 10 Defense Fund take the place of the present financial support system of the Wilmington 10 by the United Church of Christ.

The recommendations from the ministers will be given consideration by the Executive Committee and the Board of Directors of the Conference at their meetings on March 2 and March 14.

In the meantime the case has been appealed to the Federal Courts, now that the appeal system in the North Carolina courts has been exhausted.



## Reflections. . . On Loss

Standing in snow up to my ankles in the early light of morning, I couldn't believe the glowing heap of rubble and ashes which until a few hours before had been the home of these folks I had come to know so well. The youngsters were still sobbing beside me as they stared into the rubble which represented everything they owned in life. There was no insurance — as is so often the case — and, although it was not exactly an adequate home, it was all they had.

Just a year before, this hopeful family had moved into the old home place. It has taken quite a bit of fixing up and now it was gone. There hadn't been enough money yet to repair the electrical wiring and the drain had been too great in the zero temperatures.

How many times in Morgan and Scott Counties this scene has been repeated in the past five years and how many families are still searching for an adequate place to live!

—Randy Gehres

Venturing with Morgan-Scott Project

## Lancaster Votes Major Campaign

At its semi-annual meeting in November the Board of Trustees of Lancaster Theological Seminary approved the largest fund raising drive in the history of the school.

The board adopted a long-range goal of \$3,600,000 to meet the overall capital needs of the seminary. It also adopted \$2,000,000 as a first phase objective in reaching this goal. The campaign to reach this first objective will be launched during 1978 within the supporting conferences of the UCC.

## New Director

Dr. George T. Brown of Columbus, Ohio, is the new executive director of Villa International Atlanta. He assumed responsibilities on February 16. Dr. Brown, 31, has been assistant professor of political science at Capital University in Columbus since 1973. His field specialty is international relations.

Villa International, a short-term housing facility for international visitors, was opened in July 1972.

The United Church of Christ is one of six denominations that provides support for Villa International.

## THOUGHTS OF THE FRIAR

Here we are again with freezing temperatures, snow, ice, no school, and cold toes — it's January, that time of year when the grass is brown, the leaves are all down, and nature is sleeping — not to be disturbed until March at the very earliest. Our part of the earth is resting.

Many doctors say that we too should slow down and rest during this wintry season. In cold weather, our bodily systems slow down and a lot of activity can be a strain. This is also flu weather and there's a lot of flu around. Icy dangers await those of us who challenge the weather. It would probably be good for all of us to rest with nature and to relax to wait for a warm spring.

While we do slow down, it's good to know that God doesn't slow down or sleep during the winter. God doesn't relax on us. God's love and grace is still with us in its huge quantities in January and February and all through the year. It's good to know that we don't have to wait until the spring thaw to have our sins forgiven.

But as Christians, we are in God through Jesus Christ and that means that our Christianity can't rest or relax in winter either. So, as we rest our bodies, let us remember to share God's love and concern for one another with those around us during this hard winter month and on through spring.

—Mark Frey — January, 1978  
Robbins Parish, Tn.

## Habitat Getting Underway

The Morgan-Scott Community Development Corporation (CDC) housing venture, called Habitat, is slowly gaining momentum.

Through a contract arrangement with HEAD (Human/Economic Appalachian Development) Corporation, a regional, church-related economic assistance ministry in Berea, KY, which the CDC helped create, the Morgan-Scott Project will receive \$80,000 in CETA funds to provide job training in home building for 10 men. The program will run 10 months beginning in March, and will hire a supervisor, two crew leaders and seven builders. These workers will rehabilitate 30 homes and will build 2 new homes in 1978 in Morgan and Scott Counties.

From this initial effort, plans call for development of a labor cooperative of skilled builders who will train others and who will be available to build for anyone in the Morgan-Scott County area. Any profits realized will go to the Fund for Humanity.

Local churches can become a "partner" in this effort by providing the carpenter's tools that will be needed — or by providing cash contributions through which the tools can be purchased. For further information on the way in which your church can aid in this effort, write:

Mark Frey  
Morgan-Scott Project  
P.O. Box 8  
Deer Lodge, TN 37726



The Rev. James A. Nisbet [right], new President of the Georgia Interchurch Association, is congratulated by outgoing President Rev. E. Lyle Harvey. Mr. Nisbet is Executive Coordinator, Synod of the Southeast, Presbyterian Church in the U.S.



Dr. Van Cleave  
receiving award from Mr. Wayne Hodnett

## BANQUET ENJOYED

Good Hope Church in Baker, FL, was the site of the Southern Alabama-Northwest Florida Association Sweetheart Banquet held on February 10. The Rev. Alton Nixon, host pastor and the Rev. Roy Bain were Emcees. Participants enjoyed a bountiful turkey dinner. Door prizes included a set of dishes for a lady and a tool set for a man. David Murphy and Ms. Allena King were chosen as the Sweetheart King and Queen.

About 100 people were in attendance.

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## East Alabama Hosts Ladies' Night

The East Alabama Men's Fellowship annual Ladies' Night was held recently at Southern Union Jr. College. Some 286 persons representing 18 churches were in attendance.

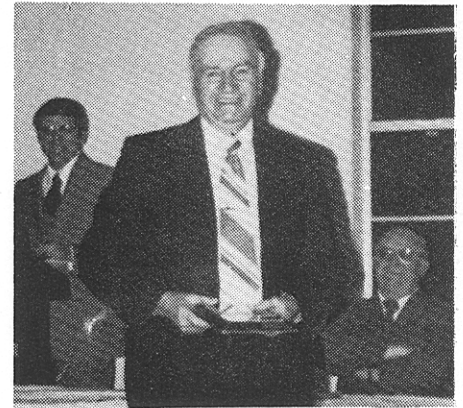
Following an excellent dinner, awards were presented to Mr. Jesse Thompson of Oak Grove Church who was voted "Layman of the Year." Dr. A.R. Van Cleave of Wadley First received a special award of appreciation for his many years of service and was also voted "Minister of the Year."

Attendance trophies were won by Alexander City First Church, Lowell Church and Phenix City First, all of whom must purchase a new trophy for next year's winners.

The Grand Door Prize was a "Solar Energized Clothes Dryer" won by Mrs. Olin Sheppard who was reported to have said she was so pleased that she was going to rush home and see if it would work by moon light.

The Andrews, a new organization for promoting the Men's Fellowship in local churches throughout the Association was announced.

Entertainment was provided by "The Guides," two members of which are members of Elder Church near Dadeville.



Jesse 'Fuller' Thompson,  
Layman of the Year

## BONANZA CHURCH CELEBRATES

Sunday, March 12, 1978, was a big day in the life of the Bonanza United Church of Christ, Jonesboro, Ga.

The Theme: "Let's Say a Good Word for Your Church."

The pastor, L. Floyd Carmack, led the service and was overwhelmed by the "Good Words" spoken by the people. Eight young people were among the speakers giving thanks for the Bonanza Church.

The Church had set a goal of 200 in attendance. 200 were present. An offering of \$2,000 was hoped for; \$3,760 was received.

Why not celebrate when you are a church like that!



[l-r] Rev. Alton Nixon, Mr. David Murphy, Ms. Allena King, Rev. Roy Bain.



# YOUTH CORE MEETS

The Youth Core held its second of three workshops for Youth Ministry training at Camp Calvin, March 10-12. Ten churches from the Southeast Conference are represented by the thirty elected High School youth and advisors. The project consists of three weekend workshops with the same participants attending all three sessions.

The Youth Core members are preparing themselves to know resources for youth ministry in local churches and the conference, and to be available as consultants to help local churches.

Brenda Gorrell, youth ministry leader from our United Church Board for Homeland Ministries, leads the workshops. Ten of the youth and advisors are 2nd year Youth Core members and will be commissioned as YC Consultants at the close of these workshops. The Youth Core will provide leadership for the Youth Caucus to be held at the SEC Annual Meeting in June.

The ten churches involved in this venture are Thomasville, Midway, and Central of Atlanta in Georgia; Belvidere, Pilgrim of Chattanooga, and Brookmeade of Nashville in Tennessee; and Lanett, Talladega, Cullman and Huntsville in Alabama.

## Ala-Tenn Youth Plan "Pop-In"

Following a chilly, but beautiful weekend at Camp Ozone, Ozone, TN in which some 42 young persons attended a Mini-Camp March 3-5, the Ala-Tenn Association is sponsoring the third of four youth get-togethers to be held in Nashville March 31-April 2.

Entitled a "Pop-In," the youth of the Nashville churches have planned a fun-filled weekend in which upwards of 50 persons from five or six Association churches are expected to attend. A time for fellowship, the Nashville "Pop-In" will feature a boat trip on the Cumberland River, a tour of Fisk University and an evening pool party.

The final youth event to be sponsored by the Ala-Tenn Association for this program year will be a "Mini-Camp," to be held at Camp Dogwood, near Chattanooga, May 5-7. In addition to a full program for youth, a number of corresponding seminars will be held at the camp that weekend to help train interested Association laypersons in "camp management, administration and programming." Leading the seminars will be Rev. Warren and Evelyn Blankenhorn.



EAST TALLASSEE CONGREGATIONAL-CHRISTIAN CHURCH, UCC

## —AROUND THE CONFERENCE— East Tallassee Congregational-Christian Church

From the Atlantic Ocean to the Mississippi River, from the Gulf of Mexico to the mountains of Kentucky, the Southeast Conference covers a broad expanse of territory. Contained within her boundaries are some 120 churches — widely dispersed — widely diverse in heritage and religious expression — and yet united in the conviction that the churches of Jesus Christ "may all be one."

Representing the southern sector of our Conference is the East Tallassee (AL) Congregational-Christian Church, UCC. Reminding us of the fascinating origins of the United Church, the East Tallassee church was founded in 1898 when a small group met at the Liberty Congregational-Methodist Church in East Tallassee for the purpose of re-organizing that church as a United Congregational Church. A member of the Coosa River District of that denomination, it united with the Christian Church in 1931 and again with the Evangelical and Reformed Church in 1957 to become a United Church of Christ.

In its 80 years of existence, East Tallassee has been served by 15 full-time ministers. The present minister is the Rev. James T. McAdams.

The church has active Laymen's and Laywomen's Fellowships and an active youth group. Likewise, the church has been quite active in the civic affairs of its community. The first Senior Citizens Club was organized at the church in 1954.

The church building consists of a sanctuary, 10 Sunday School rooms, a fellowship hall, kitchen, library and parlor

all of which is centrally heated and air-conditioned. A brick home serves as the parsonage.

The church's 100 active members are contributors to Our Christian World Mission, One Great Hour of Sharing, the Minister's Fund and the Elon Home for Children.

## An Exchange Year Can Be Exciting

Among many programs which specialize in exchanging young people among the nations of the world, the International Christian Youth Exchange holds a very important place. Through it, 500 young people change families among twenty-five countries annually.

ICYE is truly international and ecumenical. It is sponsored by several denominations, including the United Church of Christ. It involves persons from a number of different countries.

ICYE has exchange opportunities for two age groups: 16-19 (high school) and 20-24 (voluntary service). Seventy-five percent of the program involves high school people. Regional teams recruit both exchange candidates and host families.

Information concerning the program can be secured from:

Mrs. Trudi Sanford  
5855 Mitchell Road, N.W.  
Atlanta, Ga. 30328, or  
International Christian Youth Exchange  
Room 610, 74 Trinity Place  
New York, N.Y. 10060

## Winnebago Mission 100th

The Winnebago United Church of Christ of the Winnebago Indian Mission, Black River Falls, Wisconsin, is celebrating its 100th Anniversary during 1978.

During the winter of 1873 the Rev. Henry Kurtz, a professor at Mission House Seminary, was rescued in a blizzard by two Indians to whom he had previously given aid. He vowed to do all he could to assist the Indians of Wisconsin. In 1877 the Sheboygan Classis of the Reformed Church voted to establish the Winnebago Mission. The following year the Rev. Jacob Hauser arrived at Black River Falls to begin work.

## What Does AMA...

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beneficiaries of the 17/76 Achievement Fund campaign, which through UCC congregations has raised more than \$10 million in cash and pledges for educational ventures related to ethnic and religious reconciliation all around the world.

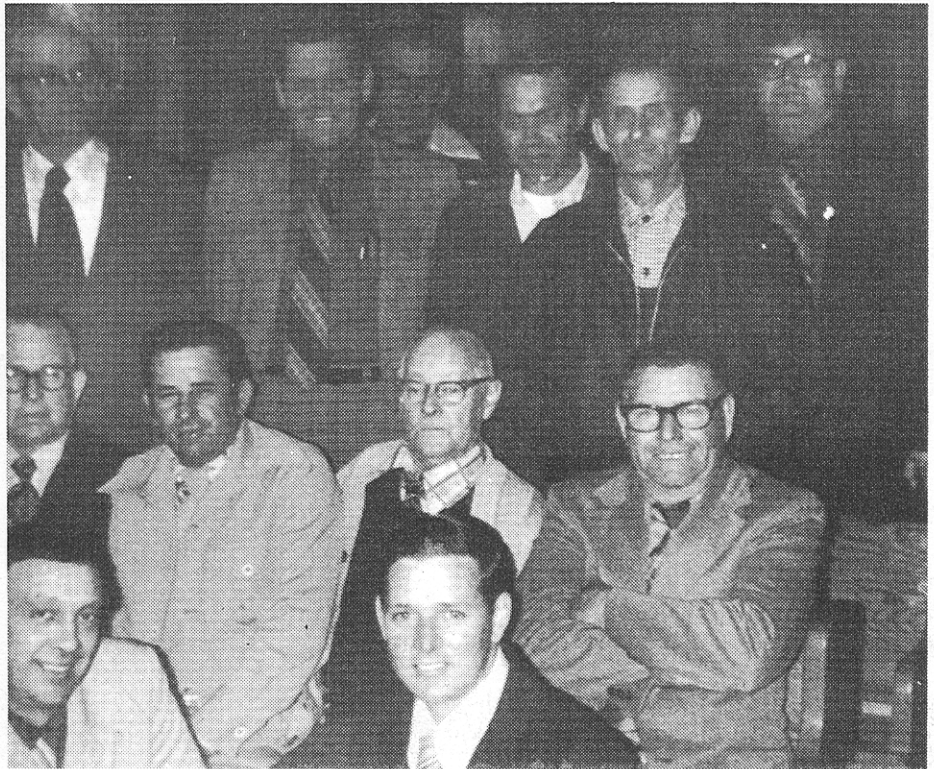
So, if you are part of the United Church of Christ, remember whenever you hear of Dillard University in New Orleans, Fisk University in Nashville, Huston-Tillotson College in Austin, Le Moyne-Owen College in Memphis, or Talladega College in Alabama, or Tougaloo College in Mississippi, that these were all founded by our AMA!

## NEWS NOTES

In spite of the very cold weather and icy roads, an estimated 80 people attended the Annual Meeting of the Community Church, Pleasant Hill, TN, in January. Moderator Alford Carleton presided in his genial manner. Betty Anderson was elected moderator for the coming year, with Lee Gable as Vice Moderator. The clerk, Beth Kinnear, reported that 11 new members were received the past year, five had moved away, and two were lost by death. There are now 177 members, 9 being associate members. Edith Radmon was elected clerk for the coming year.

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S. Lawrence Johnson, Pastor Emeritus of Pilgrim Congregational Church in Birmingham, Alabama, has published a new book entitled, "The Mouse's Tale — And Other Children's Sermons." It is a collection of story/sermons with a moral



North Alabama Association Ministers: [l-r] Row 1: George Dobbins, Hershal Armor. Row 2: Richard Waugh, Braxton Parker, Lester Waid, Sr., Brown Bradford. Row 3: Arnold Bridges, George Washington, Layton Wilson, J.T. Lowery, Ernest Shelton, Gary Rushing.

## NORTH ALABAMA MINISTERS MEET

On January 28 the ministers and concerned laypersons of the North Alabama Association met at Caddo Church with the Rev. Warren Blankenhorn who was elected Minister-at-Large at the Association's Annual Meeting last fall. Thirteen men from 6 churches were in attendance.

This was a "get acquainted meeting" since Rev. Blankenhorn has been serving as Area Minister for the Southern Alabama Area and most of his activities have been in that area for the past three years.

Regular meetings of North Alabama pastors and laypersons are planned throughout this year.

touch and was gathered from all over the world. Johnson combines good taste, humor, spiritual lessons, and intriguing facts in his children's sermons.

The publisher of the book is Abingdon of Nashville, Tennessee 37202. The book will be available in May.

— 6 —

## Report on Panama Canal

On a recent Sunday evening at a meeting in Buxton Lounge, the Manns and Larsons of Pleasant Hill told of their trip to Panama Canal. Following a discussion of the Panama Canal Treaty, the group unanimously voted in favor of adoption of the treaty. This treaty is much in the news these days and will be discussed over TV during the coming months. A recent Christian Century article has this to say: "In an open letter to North American Christians, members of a University Christian Association of Costa Rica have expressed shock at the opposition of many U.S. citizens to the new Panama Canal Treaty. They write, 'During the construction of the canal more than 25,000 poor laborers of the Third World laid down their lives on the altar for First World economic development. Yet your politicians have the gall to boast, WE BUILT IT. We exhort you as brothers in Christ to write your senators today, indicating your support for the new treaty as a step toward justice for Panama and better relations with all Latin America.'"